

District Court Judge

Samuel D. Adams, Third Judicial District



DATE OF BIRTH: June 1, 1956

PLACE OF BIRTH: Anchorage, Alaska

NAME OF SPOUSE: Catherine E. Call

CHILDREN: Helen (14), Cami (12), Margaret (8)

MAILING ADDRESS: 825 West Fourth Avenue
Anchorage, Alaska 99501

LENGTH OF RESIDENCY IN ALASKA: 42 years
Anchorage & Butterfly Lake 1956-1968, 1972 to present

EDUCATION:
A.J. Dimond High School, 1972-1974, Diploma; Teamsters
Surveying School, 1975; University of Alaska, 1974; 1977-1980,
B.S.; University of Colorado, 1975-1976; University of Oregon,
1982-1985, J.D.

POLITICAL AND GOVERNMENT POSITIONS:
Assistant District Attorney, 1988-1993, 1995-1997; Assistant
Attorney General, Special Prosecutions, 1993-1995, 1997-1999.

SPECIAL INTERESTS:
Flying, hunting, fishing, aircraft mechanics

STATEMENT:

It has been almost three years since Governor Knowles appointed me to the District Court Bench. During that time, it has been my goal to decide cases without bias, to be firm when necessary, and to understand the problems that bring my fellow Alaskans to court. In reaching these goals, I feel that my experiences prior to becoming a lawyer and then a judge have helped greatly. Those life experiences include spending my first 12 years growing up in Anchorage and on our family homestead on Butterfly Lake in the Susitna Valley, living in West Africa from the ages of 12 to 16, and working as a surveyor in rural Alaska, on the Pipeline and in Prudhoe Bay.

Although I enjoy all aspects of being a judge, my greatest reward comes from speaking to groups of children about our legal system, particularly our criminal justice system. It is just possible that a tour of the courthouse, including a visit to the holding cells and the chance to be handcuffed in jest, and a fun discussion with me will help convince a young person not to break the law. I also greatly enjoy watching jurors learn the importance of our legal system. Many prospective jurors are unhappy with the sacrifices that jury service requires. If I can help those unhappy jurors feel that they have made an important contribution then I have done my job.

Thank you for your time. I look forward to many more years of public service.

Alaska Judicial Council Recommendation

Judge Samuel D. Adams, District Court, Anchorage

I. Judicial Council Evaluation. The Alaska Judicial Council, a non-partisan citizens commission established by the Alaska Constitution, finds Judge Adams to be *Qualified* and recommends unanimously (5-0) that the public vote **Yes** to retain him as a district court judge.

II. Summary of Evaluation Information. A survey of 2,860 attorneys in Alaska rated Judge Adams on sixteen categories that are summarized in the adjacent graph. Attorneys rated Judge Adams 4.1 on a scale of 5 on overall judicial performance. He scored highest in the categories of controls courtroom (4.3), conduct free from impropriety (4.2), promptness in making decisions (4.2), and works diligently (4.2). He scored 4.0 or better in all sixteen categories.

Summary Categories	Attorney Survey	Peace Officer Survey	Juror Survey	Court Employee Survey	CourtWatch Survey
Legal Ability	4.0	---	---	---	---
Impartiality	4.1	4.5	4.8	4.6	---
Integrity	4.2	4.6	---	4.6	---
Temperament	4.1	4.6	4.9	4.6	---
Diligence	4.2	4.6	---	---	---
Special Skills	4.1	4.6	---	---	---
Overall	4.1	4.6	4.8	4.6	3.9

Ratings are based on a one to five scale. Five is the best rating and three is "acceptable."

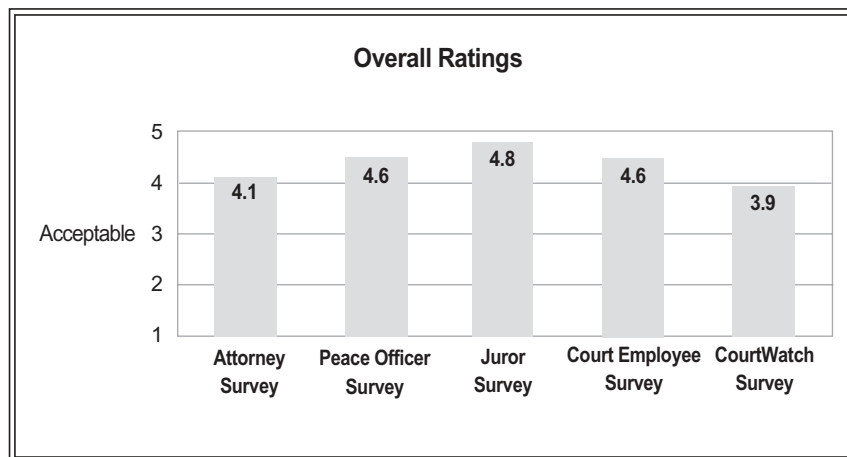
Rating Scale

5.0 = Excellent
4.0 = Good
3.0 = Acceptable
2.0 = Deficient
1.0 = Unacceptable

A survey of 1,704 peace and probation officers in Alaska rated Judge Adams on twelve categories that are summarized in the adjacent graph. Peace and probation officers rated Judge Adams 4.6 on a scale of 5 on overall judicial performance. He scored 4.5 or 4.6 in all categories.

A survey of all jurors appearing before Judge Adams in 2000 and 2001 rated him 4.8 on a scale of 5 on overall performance. A survey of all court employees rated him 4.6 on a scale of 5 on overall performance. The CourtWatch Report prepared by Victims for Justice gave Judge Adams a 3.9 overall rating on a scale of 5.

The Council also completed a background investigation including a court records check, a disciplinary records check, a review of conflict of interest statements submitted to the court system and a review of financial disclosure statements submitted to the Alaska Public Offices Commission. Attorneys, peace officers, court employees and jurors were asked to submit written comments about the judge. The Council actively encouraged the public to comment, both in writing and in a statewide public hearing teleconference.



Recommendation: Vote YES to retain Judge Adams

Contact the Judicial Council at 1029 W. 3rd, Suite 201, Anchorage, AK 99501 (telephone: (907) 279-2526)
for more detailed information, or review the information on our Internet site at:

www.ajc.state.ak.us

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